

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The principal object of this invention is to provide a suitable control method for closing length with respect to phonemes (such as unvoiced plosive consonants) having a closing interval, and as a result an improved rule-based speech synthesis device is provided. A phoneme type judgement part 201 judges whether the phoneme in question is a vowel or consonant and, in the case of a consonant, judges whether or not it is a consonant that anteriorly has a closing interval. As a result, it operates a vowel length estimation part 202 when it judges that the phoneme is a vowel and operates a consonant length estimation part 205 when it judges that the phoneme is a consonant, and when it has judged that this phoneme anteriorly has a closing interval, it operates a closing length estimation part 208, whereby the respective time lengths are estimated. After that, the estimated time lengths are set by vowel length setting part 203, consonant length setting part 206 and closing length setting part 209, respectively.